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July 28, 1999

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
1416 Ninth Street
Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Rick Breitenbach:

As a new member of CALIFORNIA TROUT, I was recently alerted to the release of your Phase 2 Report. My feelings on water usage within California are very straightforward and clear. California is not managing its water resources as effectively as they should. Clean water is a very precious resource, and thus its supply needs to be managed wisely.

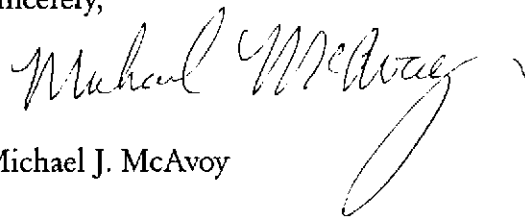
California is relying too heavily on dams for freshwater storage. This reliance on dams has been shown to be expensive and a wasteful method of groundwater storage, as well as destructive to our natural river systems.

An independent study conducted by the Natural Heritage Institute identifies up to 20 potential groundwater storage locations available. Groundwater storage is far less harmful to the environment and is much less expensive than the use of dams. This same study demonstrated that groundwater storage cost between \$60 and \$120 per acre-foot of water storage versus the \$300 to \$3000 for surface dams.

I believe there are better solutions available than the current CALFED Phase 2 alternatives. These include an increased reliance on groundwater storage instead of new dams or reservoirs, providing water for fisheries and watersheds without building new dams, increased water conservation actions for both agriculture and municipalities, and further water quality improvements for Bay-Delta waters.

I hope CALFED will listen to groups such as the Environmental Water Caucus who wish to find more environmentally friendly and less expensive water storage solutions for California Taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Michael J. McAvoy

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